

GARY SIMMONS
Legislative District 12B
Anne Arundel County

Judiciary Committee
Subcommittees

Criminal Law and Procedure
Family and Juvenile Law



The Maryland House of Delegates
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
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Good afternoon, Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the Committee,

Delegate Gary Simmons in support of HB32. At its heart, this bill requires that every local law enforcement vehicle be equipped with an Automated External Defibrillator, an AED, and that each agency maintain the functionality of those devices.

As a former federal law enforcement officer, I have seen firsthand that officers are often the first to arrive on the scene of an emergency. In many communities, urban, suburban, and rural alike, law enforcement beats EMS to the call. When someone suffers sudden cardiac arrest, every second matters. Brain injury can begin within minutes. Survival often depends on immediate defibrillation.

We have already recognized the importance of AEDs in our schools, grocery stores, restaurants, libraries, and public buildings. Maryland has made strong strides through the Maryland Public Access AED Program under MIEMSS. Yet we have not extended this lifesaving tool to every law enforcement vehicle, where it can make the greatest difference in those critical first moments.

HB32 aligns with existing standards. The bill defines an AED consistent with FDA clearance and existing Maryland law. It requires maintenance and accountability, just as we require in other facilities. This is not a new concept. It is a natural next step in strengthening our public health response.

I want to acknowledge the fiscal impact. Local governments will incur costs, particularly in the first year, to purchase equipment and ensure training. Estimates vary by jurisdiction, and in larger counties the cost is significant. But we must weigh that against the value of a life saved. The question before us is not whether there is a cost, but whether we are willing to invest in preparedness when seconds can determine survival.

Public safety today is more than enforcement, it is service, protection, and being prepared for the unexpected. HB32 ensures that when an officer arrives at a scene of cardiac arrest, they do not have to wait helplessly. They can act!

I respectfully ask for a favorable report on HB32.

Delegate Gary Simmons
Anne Arundel County, District 12b